Serial No. 10/086,104

REMARKS

1.   Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments which have greatly
5   assisted Applicant in responding.

2.   **35 U.S.C. § 103.**

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met.
First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves
10   or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the
reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable
expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined)
must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over
15   Gutman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,768 ("Purpura").

The Examiner relies on Purpura, col. 2, lines 17 to 44, col.3, lines 38-48, and col.
5, lines 45 to 62 as teaching or suggesting "means for distributing and caching said
authentication result on at least one of said authentication servers." Applicant
respectfully disagrees.   The cited portions describe the use of a cryptographically
20   assured authentication cookie.   While the authentication cookie is distributed by the
client furnishing the authentication cookie, there is no teaching or suggestion
whatsoever that Purpura's authentication cookie is <u>cached</u> on any server within
Purpura's system. As described at col. 3, lines 38-48, the first computer creates the
authentication cookie after the user authenticates on the first machine. At lines 63-64,
25   the authentication cookie is transmitted to the user's computer by the first computer.
After this, Purpura is completely silent as to any further role that the first computer may
have regarding the authentication cookie.

As described at col. 4, lines 43-46, the user's computer receives the cookie and
transmits it to the second computer, whereupon the second computer uses the
30   information contained in the cookie to authenticate the user.   Again, Purpura is
completely silent as to any further role the second computer may have regarding the
authentication cookie.

9

Gutman has nothing to add to Purpura. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion in the combination of "caching said authentication result on at least one of said authentication servers."

In spite of the foregoing, in the interest of describing the invention more clearly, Applicant amends the independent claims to describe the "authentication result" as an "authentication token." Support for the amendment is found at ¶ 0031 of the published application.

The independent claims are further amended to describe: "means for caching said authentication token on a participant authentication server; and at least one of means for distributing said authentication token to any participant authentication server[[s]] registered in said distributed network." Support is again found at ¶ 0031 of the published application.

Accordingly, even if the present rejection had not been improper, it would have been overcome by the foregoing amendment.

The Examiner relies on Gutman, col. 8, line 36 to col. 9, line 54 as teaching or suggesting "means for parsing an entered GUID and extracting said domain portion therefrom." What is described is parsing of access requests by Gutman's protocol gateway, after the access request is received from the network authentication server (NAS). It does not appear that Gutman's client has any role in the authentication process other than to convey the access request to the NAS.

By contrast, the present invention provides a client for parsing an entered GUID and extracting said domain portion therefrom, as described at ¶ 0023, lines 12-19. No such subject matter is taught or suggested by the combination. To describe the invention in greater detail, the independent claims are amended to describe the client more fully. Accordingly, even if the present rejection were not improper, it would have been overcome by the amendment immediately foregoing.

In view of the above, the independent claims are deemed allowable over the combination of Gutman and Purpura. The dependent claims, in view of their dependence from allowable parent claims, are deemed allowable without any separate consideration of their merits. Nevertheless, Applicant has the following comments regarding the dependent claims:

10

Claim 2: The Examiner relies on Gutman, col. 9, lines 32 to 54 as teaching or suggesting "means for automatically mapping any unrecognized FQDN into a default server which carries out authentication on the user's authentication request."

5 Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited portion from Gutman describes the cases of local authentication (lines 39-42) and remote authentication (lines 43-53). However, Gutman completely fails to contemplate a case where authentication fails and to provide a means and/or method for dealing with it. Nor does Purpura add anything to Gutman. As such, the combination fails to teach or suggest "means for automatically

10 mapping any unrecognized FQDN into a default server which carries out authentication on the user's authentication request."

Thus, even if its parent were not allowable, claim 2 would be allowable over the combination.

Claims 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 15 describe subject matter similar to that of claim 2,

15 and they are rejected on similar grounds. The above remarks regarding claim 2 therefore apply equally to claims 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 15. Even if their parents had not been allowable, claims 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 15 would therefore be allowable over the combination.

20 3. The above amendments are made in the interest of advancing prosecution of the Application. They do not signify Applicant's agreement with the Examiner's position, nor do they indicate intent to sacrifice claim scope. In fact, Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue patent protection of a scope it reasonably believes it is entitled to in one or more continuing applications.

25

4. For the record, Applicant respectfully traverses any and all factual assertions in the file that are not supported by documentary evidence. Such include assertions based on findings of inherency, assertions based on official notice, and any other assertions of what is well known or commonly known in the prior art.

30

11

JAN 1 7 2007
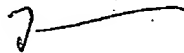
Serial No. 10/086,104

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the application is deemed to be in allowable condition. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims.

5   Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the application, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at 650-474-8400.

Respectfully Submitted,

10

Michael A. Glenn

Reg. No. 30, 176

15   Customer No. 22862

12